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1. Lancaster, but this time, ~~with~~ all the defeated, & his wife was kept at Boroughbridge on the Ouse. Vanebroke was taken, & was carried down the Ouse to York, & then on to his own castle of Pontefract which the king had seized. Then he was tried as a traitor before Edward III. & was condemned to death. The high procession about the castle is to this day known as St. Thomas' Hill. Either he was led on a grey pony, & as he went - the crowd pelted him with mud. "King of Heaven!" he cried, "grant me mercy. For my earthly king hath broken me!",

2. Having reached the top of the hill, he was beheaded. (1322). The people had ^{more than ever} clamoured the earl for taking too much upon himself. But after his death, they put his faults ^{more} clothed upon him as a martyr who had died for his religious cause. Soon it got about that miracles were wrought at his tomb. The sick & the suffering came to the Priory church of Pontefract where he was buried, - came in crowds to be cured of their ills, bringing with them offerings of whatever they held precious. In vain the king & armed men to watch the tomb; needs of pretended miracles ^{continued to be} still spread abroad; & ^{miraculous} were again & again sent to the Pope, begging that he would canonize ^(make a saint of) the great earl; but neither he ever died so ~~soon~~ does not appear, but it is as saint Thomas that his earl of ^{was canonized within his uncorrupt} earthdom. The Death of Richard II.

Not a century later, (1399), another king offended the people of England by his reckless extravagance & misgovernment. The people rose against him & he was brought before his parliament in Westminster Hall & compelled to sign a paper in which he resigned the crown as unworthy to wear it.

Then the Parliament made a decree that the king should be imprisoned for life in some Cruel

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"lonely place," unimpeded by any concourse of people."

The crown was claimed by his cousin of the house of Lancaster, who became Henry 4th, & this prince confined the deposed king in one & another of his Yorkshire castles; first he was sent to Leeds, then to Riccard Castle, then to Knarborough, & last of all, to Pontefract, one of the strongest fortresses of the north.

He had not been there many weeks when the news of his death was made public; there is no doubt at all that he died by foul means, but ^{how} ~~the manner of his~~ death is not certainly known.

According to Chaucer, he was murdered, ^{struggled} fighting manfully with his murderers until he was overpowered.

Another story is, that he was starved, dying after fifteen days of lingering tortures; And a third ^{older} story is, that he ^{did indeed} died of starvation, but of his own will - though food was duly supplied to him, because he could not ^{endure} ~~brook~~ the odious ^{and} ~~stew~~ ^{unpleasant} which had ~~overlaid~~ ^{become} his skin.

The Pilgrimage of Grace.

The history of Romford ^{the} Monasteries is the history of England, with so many events was this great stronghold of the north connected. Only one more, however, can we ~~see~~ touch upon.

In those days, most English people ^{as satisfied} ~~thought~~ ^{may} ~~that~~ ^{felt} that the way to ^{to} ~~earn~~ ^{secure} God is at home, in their own families, in the churches & chapels to which they go for public worship. But before the Reformation, ~~then~~ ^{England} ~~was~~ ^{was} a Roman Catholic country, there was an immense number of what were called religious houses in the land. There were ^{large} ~~immense~~ Abbeys, in which many men lived, under the rule of an Abbot; or many women, under the ^{rule of} ~~rule of~~ ^{nuns}.

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halls & an Abbeys. And there were smaller houses,
called Priories, in which the monks were
governed by nuns, ~~the houses~~ by nuns,
by a Prioress.

The monks & nuns dwell in companies that they might
worship God with many services in their churches; &
that they might do good works amongst the sick & the poor.
^{From time to time, especially at the period of the Reformation, were}
~~known at the time of the Reformation~~ reports got
abroad that the monks & nuns lived idle & sometimes
wicked lives. Their houses were known to be very
rich, it was said that they lived upon money
which they had done nothing to earn.

Now for the King, Henry VIII. believed these ~~wild~~ reports,
how far he was moved by a desire for the wealth
of the great abbeys, we cannot tell. At any rate,

A royal order came, ^{beginning} that first of all the smaller
houses, ~~where~~ the Great-Abbeys, should be dissolved.
That is, that the monks should be turned adrift
from their ancient homes & left without a roof
to shelter them.

And ^{the royal} ~~now~~ it was discovered that the Abbeys were
of great service in their day. There were then
not hospitals nor workhouses, no homes for the
blind or the deaf, hardly any schools. In bad times
the poor folk gathered round the gates of the Abbey
for their dole of breakfast or supper; in sickness
they ^{were} ~~were~~ taken in & tended; were they on a journey,
they might claim a night's lodging & breakfast.
The little ^{the little} ~~much~~ teaching they got, ^{they owed} ~~it was~~ to the priors.

~~But they used it.~~ In fact, the monasteries served
the purposes of unions, schools, hospitals & all the
means of help provided in our day, for the ^{poor & the} ~~poor~~
^{gathering} ~~poor~~ & they were supported in the same way as all
charitable institutions are now. That is to say, the rich
lent the money to be spent in helping the poor.

And

parts of will be seen by the travellers who from journeys
Yorkshire, you cannot ~~do better than~~ make your way
from one ruined abbey to another. 19p55amc24

But, numerous as they are, the ruins are few & far
between compared with the number of the cheerful active
monasteries freely scattered in the County before the
Dissolution. Judge, then, of the consternation in the country
when the abbey ^{houses} were ~~unroofed~~ ^{spoiled} & the monks
sent adrift. No doubt, many of these houses had
a bad name; but men forget that, sorely remembered
the monks as their friends & teachers. Yorkshiremen
would not sit down tamely under what they looked
upon as a great injury; numerous rose into prelates,
men began to arm; they were ready for anything;
but, in the meantime, they wanted leaders.

Robert-Ake's ^{friends} ~~the second son of~~
It happened that Robert-Ake, the second son of
a Yorkshire squire, having occasion to pass through
Lincolnshire, was seized by the rebels there, &
compelled to swear that he would help forward their
cause. He returned to Yorkshire, not feeling at
all sure that he wished to join this movement, but
there, to his surprise, he found all men arming
& all waiting for him. A letter had been sent
through the country in his name, calling upon
the people to defend the Church. There was nothing
for it but he must become the leader of the rebels who
met in great force on the common of Market Bosworth.

Nobles & peasants alike came in every town, &
Ake found himself at the head of a great army. The
rebels marched upon York, which surrendered at once. &
Then they attempted Pontefract Castle, the governor of
which was secretly friendly, & ready enough to surrender.
He, too, fell into their hands.

And now the rebels held a great council at Pontefract, &
where the noble families of the north gathered for
news: for the king's troops had reached a few north-
as Doncaster under the Earl of Shrewsbury. There they
were

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was dipped by the swelling of the Don, which "ladders
made of such a height & depthness & breadth, that
no like no man that did there inhabit could tell
that ever they saw it before."

Meanwhile the leaders of the northern army sat in
council at Pontefract. And thither Shrewsbury
sent the Lancaster Herald with a proclamation
from the king, which he was not allowed to pierce
the market cross. He was brought to the castle
& coming into the hall, which was full of people,
he got upon the high table, & rehearsed the cause of
his coming. Then he was carried into another
chamber, where sat Robert Aske, the leader of
the rebels, ~~Lord Darby & other honorable persons~~
"keeping his face & countenance as though he had
been a great prince."

"And I fell down on my knees before him," says
the herald, "showing him how I was a messenger, &
charged by the king's council to read the proclamation."
But Aske refused to let him read it, & bade
him tell his master that he this worthy thousand
followers intended "to go to London of pilgrimage
to the King's Highness, & there to have all the vile
blood of his council put from him, & all the noble
blood set up again," & to have the ancient
churches restored, & their lands & money given back to
the monks, & to have the common people "used as they
should be."

Then, from Pontefract, the insurgents marched in
three divisions to Doncaster, under a banner,
showing the five wounds of Christ: & every man
wore a badge crossed with the five wounds. And
instead of forcing their way across the Don, & marching
straight for London, the rebels sent two knights to
carry their demands to the king. And the leaders
agreed that the men on both sides should go to
their homes until the king's answer should be
received.

